



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

For immediate release: June 14, 2005 (05-26)

Contact: Jim Marra (360) 664-0905
John Lundberg (360) 586-8459

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

Visit our Web site at: agr.wa.gov

Gypsy moth eradication treatments end in Seattle, Kitsap County

OLYMPIA – An intensive effort to rid the Eastlake neighborhood of Seattle and the Evergreen Ridge housing area near Keyport in Kitsap County of gypsy moth has ended. The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has completed its month-long gypsy moth eradication treatments.

Officials were pleased with the treatments. Cooperation of residents at both sites and the businesses in Eastlake (there were no businesses in Evergreen Ridge) was excellent, according to Chad Phillips, eradication coordinator.

Four ground treatments were conducted in Eastlake, and three aerial treatments and two ground treatments were conducted in Evergreen Ridge. The biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* was used for all treatments.

The state Department of Agriculture will now place approximately 250 small cardboard traps at each site, from early June through September, to determine if any gypsy moth caterpillars escaped the treatments. If any moths are caught, more traps will be brought in to determine if a reproducing population is present. The traps will be checked every two to three weeks until September.

The Eastlake and Evergreen Ridge treatments will be declared a success if no moths are caught in the area this summer and summer 2006.

The gypsy moth is one of the most destructive forest pest insects ever brought into the U.S. Washington gets introductions of gypsy moth every year, but a permanent population has never been established because of WSDA's summer trapping and spring eradication programs.

For more information on Washington's gypsy moth control program, call the state Department of Agriculture's toll-free hotline at 1-800-443-6684, or visit the agency's Web site at www.agr.wa.gov and click on gypsy moth.

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